

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /085 W
-----104200 100929Z /20

R 100510Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8882
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0035

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR LA BU
SUBJECT: REPORTED SALE OF LAO OPIUM TO BULGARIA

REF: A GENEVA 6940, B GENEVA 4471

1. UNFDAC DIRECTOR IN LAOS ALEXAKDRE ARNAUD TOLD US
JANUARY 9 THAT THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT HAD SIGNED AN
AGREEMENT WITH THE LPDR TO PURCHASE 4,000 KILOGRAMS OF
RAW OPIUM AT APPROXIMATELY \$60.00 PER KILOGRAM. -
BULGARIAN-CONDUCTED TEST INDICATED THAT THE OPIUM WAS
SEVEN PERCENT MORPHINE.

2. THE BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY TOLD ARNAUD
THAT THE OPIUM WOULD BE SENT TO BULGARIA VIA A SPECIAL
PLANE DUE TO ARRIVE IN VIENTIANE IN THE NEAR FUTURE
BRINGING EMBASSY SUPPLIES.

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3. ARNAUD WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT THE
BULGARIAN AND LAO GOVERNMENTS HAD RECEIVED AUTHORIZA-
TION FROM THE INCB FOR THE TRANSACTION.

4. COMMENT: REF A REPORTED THAT BULGARIA'S PLANS TO
PURCHASE LAO OPIUM HAD BEEN "SHELVED". REF B NOTED

INCB SECRETARY STEP CZYNSKI'S BELIEF THAT IF THE LAO OPIUM TO BE SOLD WAS "SEIZED" OPIUM STOCKS THAT THE TRANSACTION WOULD BE LEGAL. REF B ALSO CONTAINED, HOWEVER, USMISSION GENEVA'S RESERVATIONS ABOUT SUCH A TRANSACTION SINCE THE SALE MIGHT "WHET THE LPDR APPETITE TO ENTER THE OPIUM EXPORTING BUSINESS."

5. FOR USMISSION GENEVA: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY NEW INFORMATION USMISSION MIGHT RECEIVE REGARDING THIS LONG-RUMORED OPIUM SALE TO BULGARIA.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, OPIUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VIENTI00035
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-0472
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780178/aaaacoiq.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a9aeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3796800
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED SALE OF LAO OPIUM TO BULGARIA
TAGS: SNAR, LA, BU
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a9aeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014